

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

**Paragraph 54 is amended as follows:**

[0054] Figure 5 shows schematically a supporting means 40 according to a second embodiment in which rod 50 is provided with a hollow part. Through the hollow part a utility conduit may be fed, through which, for example, a liquid (e.g., cooling water) or an electrical or signal connection is provided to the substrate table WT. ~~Conduits~~ Utility conduits are generally made of materials that tend to release undesirable contaminants in a vacuum environment. The proposed arrangement prevents such contamination.

**Paragraph 55 is amended as follows:**

[0055] Figure 6 depicts schematically a means 40 according to a third embodiment of the invention. In the third embodiment a supported mask table MT is provided below a supporting upper part 22 that is connected to long-stroke positioning means. The various parts as described for the first embodiment can also be distinguished in Figure 6. The figure further shows that conduits 61 are provided separate from rod 50. A bellows 60 is provided through which conduits ~~60~~ 61 is passed to mask table MT. Both bellows 60 and conduits ~~60~~ 61 provide an additional stiffness in the horizontal direction, that is, they act as auxiliary support structures. To compensate for such an extra stiffness and, moreover, to generally provide for an adjustable negative stiffness, there is provided a means to generate an adjustable force AF along the support direction. Force AF may be accomplished by addition of an (extra) mass on the mask table MT, by using an (adjustable) spring or by applying air pressure, for example.